

August 2004

OCHILTREE COUNTY FSA
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Office Hours: 8:00-4:30 M-F

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Steve Waide – Chairman
Don Cooper – V-Chairman
Vicky Black- Member
Regular Meeting:
2nd Wednesday @ 9:00 a.m.

STAFF

Sona Collison – PT
Pat Presley – PT
Terrye Swink – PT
Cara Wilkens – PT
Celia Krug – PT
James D. Bellmon – CED
James M. Heck – FLM

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COC ELECTION CYCLE BEGINS

Beginning July 15, 2004, farmers and ranchers can nominate local producers to serve on the County Committee (COC). The first step in the process is for qualified voters to nominate candidates. If you are qualified to vote, you can nominate yourself or another producer to run for a seat on the committee. Nominating petitions must be submitted to the office by Sept. 3, 2004.

The individual elected will represent an area consisting of the Northeastern portion of the county called LAA#2 which is currently being represented by Don Cooper.

The County Committee helps make national farm programs fit the needs of local producers. For example, they make decisions on price support loans, yields and disaster assistance.

Important dates for this year's election

- ✓ **July 15** Nomination period begins
- ✓ **Sept. 3** Last day to file nomination forms with the FSA office.
- ✓ **Nov. 8** Ballots mailed to eligible voters.
- ✓ **Dec. 6** Last day to return voted and signed ballots to the FSA office.
- ✓ **Jan. 1, 2005** Elected Committee members and alternates take office.

Forms are on hand at the county office. You can also find them online at: www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections. The County Committee system is your opportunity to have a voice in delivery of federal farm programs in Ochiltree County – we encourage you to participate fully in the nomination and election process.

MAINTENANCE ON DCP ACREAGE

DCP participants are required to control water and wind erosion and weeds including noxious weeds on ALL DCP base acres. Weeds are not an acceptable cover. Failure to control weeds or limit erosion on contract acres will cost you \$30.00/acre. Program benefits will be lost if the County Committee determines you failed to demonstrate a good faith effort to control weeds and/or erosion.

CRP COVER MAINTENANCE

You are required to maintain your Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres according to the conservation plan you agreed to with NRCS. You need to make sure you:

- Have adequate approved vegetative cover to control erosion for the contract period
- Control weeds and other types of undesirable vegetation
- Take control measures outside of the primary nesting season

Keep in mind that mowing for cosmetic purposes is prohibited. Review your conservation plan and talk to Stan Bradbury with NRCS if you think undesirable plant species are invading your CRP land.